

MR. RUPPERT'S WILL.

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Testimony Given in the Case in
Court Today.

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WITNESSES VARY WIDELY

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In the trial of the issues on the will of the late Christian Ruppert before Justice Bradley on the jury of Circuit Court, division 1, yesterday, there was some sensational testimony. When Mr. Uppener, who was the book-keeper, was under examination he testified that Mr. Ruppert told him that he (Ruppert) had set the store on fire. The witness had

him before sprinkling powder on the floor, and when the claim was made for insurance he altered the books so as to make an increase of \$5,000 in the stock.

Judge Bradley upbraided the witness, saying: "You ought to be in the penitentiary, for he had shown himself to be an unmitigated scoundrel."

Mrs. Gutridge, a niece, testified to the deceased having been a cross man to his wife, and often said about his relatives that they were only waiting for his money, and occasionally she said that she was so disgusted with her aunt's great influence over him. She testified that Mrs. Weigman seemed to rule the house.

Barthara, a niece, testified that Mrs. Weigman being intimate with Ruppert, and she considered was the cause of trouble.

Gustave Ruppert, a brother, testified to the influence of his brother-in-law, and attributed the cause of the family dissensions to Mrs. Weigman, whom his brother appeared to think more than he did.

NOT OF SOUTH MISS.

This morning Gustav Ruppert testified that he was present during the dying hours of his brother; that he held out his hand to witness and burst into tears and he said he didn't know what he was doing. Witness testified that his brother was going home, and his relations were friendly and he assisted him in the purchase of a house. He testified that he was a member of a war, and that he was a member of a war, and that after withdrawing his assent. He testified that his brother made the will in controversy, and that from December, 1890, to August, 1891, he was a member of a war, and capable of executing a valid deed or contract.

W. W. Brandt testified that he left the store the night of the fire about 10 o'clock. When he returned he found the store in flames. He testified that he was a member of a war, and that until Mrs. Weigman told him of the fire and he came to it. Mr. Ruppert was excited and walked his room after the fire, and Mrs. Weig-

support if he accused him of setting the store on fire and he answered "No." Ruppert said that he had trouble settling up and Ruppert handed him a bill for \$350 for goods sold and not accounted for. Witness denied its correctness and he told him to get it from him and he replied "Sue and be d—d." Witness said he could not cheat a poor boy as he had the insurance companies and Ruppert then threatened to show him up and send him to jail.

TREATED HIS WIFE BADLY.

Charles J. Prentiss, a clerk, testified that Mr. Ruppert always treated his wife badly. He was of opinion that especially after the fire his mind was impaired. His physical condition was bad and he looked like a ghost, frequently talking to people who were not there and he suddenly became peaceful and kind. Ruppert

loss in money matters and that Mrs. Ruppert was addicted to the use of milk purchases. The witness testified to the goods that were saved after the fire and of his going over the damaged stock. His estimate was that only about \$1,500 or \$2,000 was the loss. He thought the whole stock was worth about \$75,000; that it would cost that to replace it. Witness had left Ruppert's employment in June, 1891, and since then he had worked at selling gas stoves, and afterward with Mr. Bernheim, who had bought out Mr. Ruppert's store. Mr. Carlisle asked witness as to his life before coming to this city and witness testified to

Having lived in Boston and New York, where he had been engaged in manufacturing. At the time he was working selling goods on commission. He did not remember what happened on the night of the fire, but he thought Mr. Ruppert paid him during the six months he had worked for him.

THOMAS HUPPESSE WAS MARRIED.

Geo. H. Shaeffer was the next witness. He testified in answer to Mr. Tobriner's questions that he was in government employ. He had been acquainted with Mr. Ruppert for some time. The night of the fire, between the 1st and 2d, he had seen Mr. Ruppert near the building. He was very excited. He had seen Mr. Ruppert every day nearly for a space after the fire, but he could not remember the exact date. Witness had found out on his own satisfaction that Mr. Ruppert was a miserly man.

Mr. Carlisle cross-examined: Witness had had no small dealings with Mr. Ruppert during the time previous to his death. Mr. Ruppert, witness said, had a good home. Witness was content that Ruppert was miserly in that he was avaricious in making a bargain.

WITNESSED THE WILL.

Mr. Charles W. Handy was examined by Mr. Crossbrainer. He was engaged in the real estate business, with his office in the same building as the office of the late Mr. Ruppert, on the corner of F street occupied by Mr. Eimon Wolf. He had been asked by Mr. Wolf to come up into his office and witness Mr. Ruppert's will. He had done so with two others, namely, Mr. C. Casser and Mr. J. W. Bennett. He testified that Mr. Ruppert, who was present, was entirely of sound mind and memory. He was not a drunkard, and saw no indications that Mr. Ruppert was coerced in any way.

Mrs. Christine Beck testified to knowing all the Rupperts for many years. Had known Mrs. Christine Ruppert estimated to be thirty years. Mr. and Mrs. Ruppert did not live happily. Both were in the habit of coming witness and telling of their troubles.

The question of women was what Mrs. Ruppert mainly complained of, and especially of Mrs. Weyman. Mr. Ruppert had come to witness twice two days after the fire and acted in a very peculiar way. He was very angry. He broken his came and "carried on and was very foolish." He had said that he wished the whole business had burned up so he would never see it again. Witness testified that after the fire Mrs. Ruppert "never spoke" any more like himself. He had said that he would never see it again. He had said that he would never see it again. He had said that he would never see it again.

was either dead or in an asylum and that if this thing kept up long enough he would see Dr. Mann was not dead very shortly. Dr. Mann was not dead, and the witness said Dr. Mann who was shot by the man who shot Ruppert said was the cause of his trouble. Witness told of Mr. Ruppert having come to Atlantic City, where Mrs. Weyman was, and of Mrs. Ruppert being greatly worked up about it, and threatened to take poison.

MRS. CROSS TESTIFIES.

Mrs. Carlie Cross testified that Mr. Ruppert was of an excitable nature, but witness had never seen him in such a state as during the interview related. Mrs. Ruppert and the witness, was of a jealous disposition, and Mrs. Carlie wanted to know if Mrs. Ruppert had been jealous of the witness. Mrs. Beck replied that she had never been, so her

HIS BROTHER TESTIFIED.

Mr. August Kuppert, brother of Christian Kuppert, was the next witness. Witness had been married with Mr. Kuppert in 1897 and his brother had visited witness at Richmond and witness at that time had spoken to his brother about wills and Christian had advised witness to make his will as he had, to have everything to his wife for her life, and witness had been here at the time his brother had attended the funeral. Mr. Tobin was asked in regard to his conversation with Mr. Kuppert and he testified that he had been called off on the way back from the funeral. Objections were promptly made.

The court sustained the objection and an exception was noted. A similar objection, sustained, was noted in regard to a conversation with a university student.

off and the widow of Christian Ruppert. Witness had heard Mr. Wolf read the will. He said it read in very fast, and had not explained it. He had then asked witness to sign, and he had done after Gustava had signed. Ernst had wished to sign, but at no after Mrs. Ruppert had begged him. Mr. Wolf had said that if Ernst did not sign he would make a great deal of trouble for him. Witness was cross-examined by Mr. Carlin. Then the will was read he had heard that a \$10,000 legacy came to him.

A Naval Payment.
The Secretary of the Navy has made the twentieth payment of \$86,667 to Cramp & Sons on account of the construction of the cruiser Minneapolis, thereby indicating con-

The New Nicaraguan Government.

It is said at the State Department that no steps looking to the formal recognition of the new government of Nicaragua will be taken by the United States until some definite advice shall have been received from Minister Baker in regard to the terms of peace upon which it is based.